

November 26, 2002

PROPOSED RULE TO REDUCE TOXIC AIR POLLUTANTS FROM SURFACE COATING OF AUTOMOBILES AND LIGHT-DUTY TRUCKS

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing a proposed rule to reduce emissions of toxic air pollutants from the processes used to apply surface coatings to automobiles and light-duty trucks. Toxic air pollutants, also called air toxics, are those pollutants known or suspected to cause cancer or other serious health effects.
- ! EPA is also proposing an amendment to its hazardous waste regulations to exempt certain activities covered by today's proposed rule.
- ! The surface coating of automobiles and light-duty trucks is a process of applying decorative, protective, or functional coatings to new automobile and light-duty truck bodies. Coating materials include, but are not limited to, primer, primer-surfacer, topcoat, sealer, sound deadener, and glass bonding primer and adhesive.
- ! EPA will take public comment on the proposed rule for 60 days following publication in the *Federal Register*.
- ! EPA is also seeking public comment on three options that could reduce the economic burden associated with this proposed rule. The options would focus emission control requirements on those facilities with air toxics emissions that pose the greatest health risks. Under each of these options, a facility could be exempt from additional emission control requirements if it can demonstrate that its air toxic emissions pose risks below certain health effects thresholds.
- ! EPA will hold a public hearing if requested. The Agency expects to finalize the rule within 1 year after proposal.

BENEFITS AND COST OF PROPOSED RULE

- ! Today's proposal would reduce total emissions of air toxics by 6,000 tons per year, or about 60 percent from 1997 emission levels.
- ! Additional benefits of this action include a decrease in emissions of other pollutants, such as volatile organic compounds which contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, the primary constituent of smog. When inhaled, even at very low levels, ground-level ozone can cause acute respiratory problems, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity, inflame lung tissue,

and impair the body's immune system.

- ! EPA expects implementation of this proposed rule to result in national costs of \$154 million per year for the entire industry. This represents less than one-tenth of one percent of the baseline industry revenues of \$290 billion and just over 1 percent of baseline industry pre-tax earnings of \$14 billion. These costs take into account the implementation of pollution prevention activities, such as reformulation of coatings. They also include monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting costs.

WHAT THE PROPOSED RULE WOULD REQUIRE

- ! This proposed rule would affect any new, reconstructed, or existing automobile and light-duty truck manufacturing facility that is a "major" source of air toxic emissions.
- ! EPA expects that today's proposal would affect about 60 existing automobile and light-duty truck manufacturing facilities.
- ! The emission limits proposed today would give the industry choices and flexibility in how they reduce organic air toxic emissions. The compliance options include:
 - (1) Use coatings that have been reformulated to reduce the air toxic content.
 - (2) Improve coating application efficiency.
 - (3) Upgrade or install new capture-and-control systems to reduce air toxic emissions.
 - (4) Use any combination of (1), (2), and (3) above.
 - (5) Work practice and equipment requirements for cleaning.
- ! Facilities must also meet certain recordkeeping and reporting requirements, including semiannual compliance reports.

BACKGROUND

- ! Under the Clean Air Act, EPA is required to regulate emissions of 188 listed toxic air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to identify industrial or "source" categories that emit one or more of these toxic air pollutants. For categories of "major" sources (those that emit 10 tons per year or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons per year or more of a combination of pollutants), the Clean Air Act requires EPA to develop standards that require the application of stringent air pollution reduction measures known as maximum achievable control technology.
- ! EPA's published list of industry groups to be regulated (known as source categories) includes automobile and light-duty truck surface coating operations.

- ! Air toxics are emitted from the surface coating application process, drying/curing operations, mixing and/or thinning operations, and cleaning operations. Surface coating operations at automobile and light-duty truck manufacturing facilities emit a variety of air toxics. The toxic compounds emitted vary by facility but include primarily xylene, toluene, ethyl benzene, ethylene glycol butyl ether and other glycol ethers, methyl ethyl ketone, and methyl isobutyl ketone. The health effects caused by exposure to these air toxics can include cancer, respiratory irritation, and damage to the nervous system.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO COMMENT

- ! To download the standards from EPA's website on the Internet, go to "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/ramain.html>.
- ! The notice and background information document are also available through the EPA's Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (Docket Number A-2001-22) by calling (202) 260-7548 or fax (202) 260-4000 (a reasonable fee may be charged for copying).
- ! Written comments on the proposed rule should be submitted (in duplicate) to: Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center (6102), Attention Docket Number A-2001-22, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Please also send a separate copy to Mr. David Salman, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Standards Division, Coatings and Consumer Products Group (C539-03), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711; facsimile number (919) 541-5689; electronic mail address salman.dave@epa.gov.
- ! If you are submitting proprietary information, you must clearly distinguish it from other comments and clearly label it confidential. To ensure proprietary information is not released or inadvertently placed in the public docket, send such information directly to Mr. David Salman, c/o OAQPS Document Control Officer(C404-02), U.S. EPA, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27711.
- ! For general information about the proposed standards, contact Mr. Dave Salman of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Coating and Consumer Products Group, at (919) 541-0859, or by email at salman.dave@epa.gov. Or visit the automobile and light-duty truck (surface coating) website at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/coat/automan/auto_truck.html.
- ! The EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's (OAR) homepage on the Internet contains a wide

range of information on the air toxics program and many other air pollution programs and issues. The OAR home page address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.